



PARK BELL

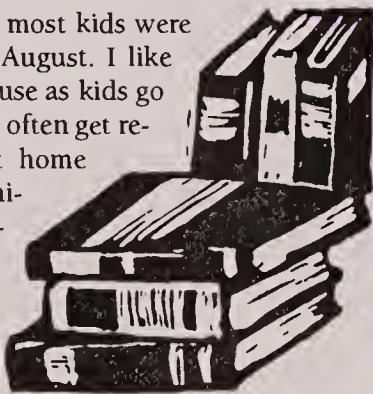
ST. MARY'S PARK IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Greetings Friends & Neighbors! ¡Bienvenidos! Mabuhay! Bon Giorno! 您好

September, 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Usually September is back-to-school month. But this year, most kids were hitting the books in August. I like this time of year because as kids go back to school, adults often get re-engaged at work, at home and in their communities. And, what a perfect time it is to get re-involved with the Club. At the very least, come to the picnic on September 20th and have some food and fun with your neighbors. Also, we'll be having meetings for the Park committee, the Membership committee, and the Island committee. If you want to get involved, now is a great time to start. (Meeting dates are elsewhere in the Park Bell.)



As many of you know, some vandals drove their black low-slung Chevy truck up the College islands on a Friday night a few weeks ago. Several islands lost sprinkler heads, but the island with the flag pole took the biggest hit. The truck drove up the island, bumped the pole, slid down the island and drove up it again. As a result, the irrigation lines are damaged, not just sprinkler heads. We've got calls out to irrigation plumbers. It will cost us. And, it's a darn shame. Our islands have been looking more and more beautiful. This is a frustrating set back. Until we are able to get it fixed, if you live on the 300 block of College and have a long enough hose, please feel free to drag it out and water part of that island.

Please come to the Club meeting on the 8th. And, let's share some good food and conversation at the Picnic on the 20th!

Jonna Ramey



Sept. 8 Club Meeting Agenda

The meeting will start at 7:30 sharp, in the Rec. Center auditorium. We'll have a presentation on earthquake preparedness with a representative from the City Office of Emergency Services. There'll also be a presentation on Herbalife products by neighbor Lois DeCastro. The proposed "meeting day change" bylaws amendment will be read and briefly discussed. Raffle items will be provided by Lois DeCastro. Mabel Reichman will bring refreshments.



Proposed Bylaws Amendment

Club Meeting Day Change

Club member Mabel Reichman brought up an idea at the July meeting that she will bring to the September meeting as a formal proposed amendment change. Mabel suggests that we change the Club meeting from the second Tuesday of the month to the second Wednesday of the month. Her suggestion is based on the fact that several Club members play bingo at the Rec. Center earlier in the day on Tuesday and are often too tired to participate in both bingo and the Club all on the same day. Other members of the Club expressed the idea that the Club has developed a tradition of meeting on the second Tuesday and that regardless of other conflicts, 25-50 people attend the monthly meetings.

This proposed bylaws change is the first for the Club since we adopted our new bylaws in 1997. The process is as follows: The proposed amendment will be presented to the Club in written form at the September meeting. It will be read to all members attending (and will appear in the next issue of the Park Bell). Members will discuss the proposed amendment at the September meeting and again at the October meeting. At the October meeting, we will vote on the amendment. Several Club members asked that the voting be by paper ballot. We can do this easily. The votes will be counted and the results announced promptly at the October meeting.

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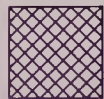
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Bikes in the Park

The Neighborhood Parks Council and the San Francisco Bike Coalition are having a bicycle tour of the parks in Bernal Heights, St. Mary's Park, the Excelsior and Visitation Valley. Everyone who cares about San Francisco parks and likes to ride bikes is invited. "Bikes in the Park" is a fun, leisurely non-athletic bicycle tour of neighborhood parks, with time for exploration, short history and "current situation" talks to raise awareness about neighborhood parks in the City. The tour starts at Precita Park (corner of Precita & Folsom) on Saturday, September 19th at 10:00 AM, rain or shine. The tour costs \$5, but is free to SFBC and NPC members.



Bring your bike helmet, a snack and water for three hours of fun on two wheels. For more information, contact Elizabeth Sullivan at the Neighborhood Parks Council, 551-2572.

ST. MARY'S PARK CRIME WATCH

The Ingleside Police Station provided the following information about crimes reported in St. Mary's Park and the surrounding area.

Type of Crime	8/98
Assault	3
Theft	3
Auto	3
Other	18
Total	27

August was an active month on the area's crime scene. There were 3 assaults, 3 thefts, 3 auto break-ins and 18 other crimes in the area (many outside the Park). Most notable was a drunken break-in in the 400 block of Justin early in the month (fortunately no one was hurt), vandalizing the islands on College late in the month and a "pigeon drop" scam perpetrated on an elderly woman on Mission Street.

The scam is worth noting. An elderly woman was approached by a woman who claimed to have just found a large packet of money. The woman then told the victim that she would split the money with her if she would just obtain \$5000 of "good faith" money from her own bank account. Two additional suspects then got involved in the scam, a "courier" and a "bank manager." The victim turned \$5000 of her own money over to the first suspect, who promptly fled. The elderly woman is now poorer and the scam artists are long gone. The lesson here is that if it sounds too good to be true, it IS too good to be true.

Report all suspicious activity to the Police. If it's not an emergency, contact our Police liaison, Officer Kaprosch at 553-1603.

Calling All Candidates!

If you know an individual running for elected office this November, please invite them to speak at our October Club meeting. It will be Candidate's Night in St. Mary's Park on October 13th. We'll allow all candidates and proponents or opponents of ballot measures 3 minutes to speak in their own behalf. The Club is not endorsing any one candidate or cause, rather we are offering our neighbors a chance to hear from the candidates and make educated choices when we vote in November. All candidates for city, county, school board and regional elections and propositions are invited to attend and speak. For more info, have the candidate call Jonna Ramey at 285-7425.

SF Conservation Corps Birthday Party

Everyone is invited to join in the festivities at the San Francisco Conservation Corps' 15th Birthday Party on Saturday, September 26th from 11 AM to 5 PM at the Presidio Parade grounds. The festival-style celebration will honor the young people who performed millions of community service hours for San Francisco while serving as Corps members over the past 15 years. Entertainment will include live music, games, spoken word presentations, information booths, a raffle, food and birthday cake. Several dignitaries will attend. Admission is free and party-goers of all ages are welcome. For more information, call Linda Gamberg or Lara Abbott at 928-7322.



Neighborhood Picnic September 20!

Rain or shine, September 20th is the date for this year's Club picnic. All St. Mary's Park neighbors are invited to this great day of fun in the sun. There will be races and games for kids, with prizes galore! This event is a potluck, so bring a casserole, salad or dessert to share. The Club will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie-burgers, chips, cold drinks and condiments.

We'll be holding a plant exchange at the picnic. Bring potted plants, succulents, bulbs or cuttings to share with your neighbors. And, this year, we'll also have a book exchange. Bring a book (or ten) to pass on and pick up some new reading material for yourself.

Of course, no St. Mary's Park picnic would be complete without a cake walk. Tickets for the cake walk and the raffle are \$1 each, so don't forget your wallet. We've got some great bakers lined up to make cakes, but we can always use more. If you want to bring a cake or volunteer in any way, call Jonna Ramey at 285-7425.

SMPIC - MINUTES OF 8/12/98

President Ramey introduced new members Kevin McSpadden and John Fernandez at 419 College Ave, Alica Weiner at 125 Murray, Becky Correa and Christine Bensen at 39 Justin Drive.

Minutes of the July 14 meeting were read and correction made to reflect that Erik Poole is the Chairperson of the Island Committee.

Finance Report was given by Alex Balderramos.

President Ramey said that the Annual Park Picnic will be on Sunday, September 20. There will be lots of fun for everyone; potluck lunch, games, cake walk, plant and book exchange, and raffle. Beverages and hot dogs will be provided by the Club.

There was a crime report about suspicious activity in the area. A purse snatching and a break-in at the lower end of Justin Dr. Two police officers dropped by our meeting and stressed the importance of safety. Some of their suggestions were; be a ware and alert of your surroundings, if victimized don't fight the attacker, phone the police. Be a good witness, remember details such as a detailed description of suspect, make of car or license number.

Dana Peterson gave a report on the Park and Recreation consultant walk-thru of SMP.

President Ramey reported that the work order on the proposed dog park was on someone's desk, and at this time there are no funds.

Mabel Reichman made a proposal to change the Club meeting date from Tuesday evening to Wednesday evening. President Ramey said the Executive Board voted to keep the traditional meetings as scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month. She stated that under the new by-laws Article IV, Section 2, an amendment to the by-laws must be submitted in writing, read and discussed at the following meeting and voted at the next meeting. She will check for space availability of the recreation center. Notice will be put in the next newsletter.

President Ramey gave a report on the building inspectors inspecting homes suspected of being in violation of City Codes.

A Sunshine Report was given by President Ramey.

October 13 will be Candidates night. Speakers running for elected office will be given 3 minutes to make a presentation.

Frank Burtnett, Volunteer Coordinator from the SF Food Bank gave a description of the program and how the distribution of food is designated to approximately 350 agencies and programs in the City.

Next presentations will be Lois DeCastro and a speaker on earthquake preparedness.

The raffle (video of Riverdance) was won by Susan Brady.

There were approximately 35 persons in attendance.

Meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served.

President's Garden Award

September is such a beautiful month, the harbinger of Fall, and the beginning of our Indian summer. Several yards are looking especially beautiful. In fact, another trio of yards is looking quite wonderful together: 137, 143 and 149 Murray collectively look lovely. 53 Genebern is an excellent example of good-looking drought tolerant gardening. The roses at 250 College are grand right now. And, 140 Genebern deserves special mention. This yard is always lovely, consistently well-maintained with a wonderful mix of greenery and color. Thanks to all the gardeners of the neighborhood for taking pride in their property's appearance. Your attention and hard work benefit us all.



IMPORTANT SMPIC DATES

Sept. 8, 7:30 pm Club meeting with speakers on earthquake safety & weight loss products

Sept. 15, 7:00 pm Membership Committee meeting, 21 Agnon Ave. Call Jonna @ 285-7425 for info.

Sept. 20, noon Neighborhood Picnic

Sept. 10, 7:30 pm Park Committee meeting, 100 Justin Dr., ..Call Louisa Fossett @ 334-7133 for info.

Sept. 17, 7:30 pm Island Committee meeting 245 Genebern, Call Erik Poole @ 333-3252 for info.

Oct. 13, 7:30 pm Candidates night @ SMP, Nominations for 1999 Executive Board



SUNSHINE CORNER

By Armando Pulido

Welcome...

Let's all put out a warm welcome to our newest neighbors at 33 Agnon, 66 Benton and 419 College. Get to know your neighbors by greeting them with a warm smile and a happy hello!

Get Well...

Time to shed some sunshine on a few people feeling a bit under the weather. A big "Hope you're feeling better" to Lois Decastro--hope that leg is healing well. To Norma Travaglini, please be careful when you water your plants, we don't want anymore dislocations! And finally, a big warm hearted "Hang in there" to Mrs. Burman--hope everything is well.



Just a few words to live by (from Life's Little Instructions Book 1994 H. Jackson Brown Jr.) Take time to smell the roses. Take a nap on Sunday afternoon. Never deprive someone of HOPE it might be all they have. Don't take good health for granted.

If you have any news of upcoming birthdays, anniversary's, or have a "get well", please let us know by calling Armando at 239-4221.